



Adult Education in Pima County

Fiscal Year 2002

Adult Education is the delivery of literacy services to people 16 years of age and older who are not enrolled in a K-12 school. It includes:

- **Adult Basic Education:** instruction in reading, writing, and math to the 8th grade
- **Adult Secondary Education:** instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies; may lead to the attainment of an alternative high school diploma
- **English for Speakers of Other Languages**
- **Citizenship Test Preparation**

Adult Education dollars allocated by the Arizona Department of Education to Pima County in FY2002:

Federal dollars: \$1,137,350
State dollars: \$1,137,350

The Need for Adult Education In Pima County

In Pima County, **125,153*** out-of-school adults do not have a high school diploma or GED; **26,348*** adults cannot communicate effectively in the English language.

*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Federal Adult Literacy Estimates, 1996

In Arizona, only providers who meet rigorous standards and produce positive student outcomes are funded. Three certified programs provide adult education throughout Pima County:

- Pima County Adult Probation
- Literacy Volunteers of Tucson
- Pima Community College

Pima County Adult Education Data for Fiscal Year 2002

- 9,347 adults enrolled in Adult Education classes
- 774,012 instructional hours were provided in Adult Education classes
- \$2.94 was the total cost per instructional hour for Adult Education
- \$243.36 was the total annual cost per Adult Education student
(compared to over \$5,000 per K – 12 student)
- 5,285 of 8,906 students (59%) improved more than two grade levels
- 714 of 834 students (86%) who sought a GED obtained their high school equivalency diploma
- 478 of 513 students (92%) who sought a job found employment
- 853 of 910 students (94%) who sought to retain their job or improve their employment were successful
- 550 of 617 students (89%) who wanted to enter post-secondary education or training went on to further education

Family Literacy in Pima County

Fiscal Year 2002

Arizona Family Literacy provides comprehensive literacy programs to families who have Pima County's lowest incomes (**90% have incomes under \$25,000**), lowest levels of adult literacy, and who have one or more preschool-aged children. Arizona Family Literacy programs integrate literacy instruction into six service components:

- **Early Childhood Education**
- **Adult Basic Education**
- **Parent Involvement Education**
- **Parent-child Literacy Activities**
- **Community Service/Volunteering**
- **Home-based Instruction**

Family Literacy Services must be of **sufficient intensity and duration** to make sustainable changes in the family including: **preparing the child to enter kindergarten ready to learn**, and **supporting the parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teacher**.

During the 2001-2002 program year, **71% of the children made significant language gains while 60% of the five year olds showed "readiness for kindergarten"**. Because of the intensity of the programming, **76% of Family Literacy parents improved more than two grade levels**.

Pima County Family Literacy Data for Fiscal Year 2002

Program	Sites	Families Served
Pima Community College	6	151
Sunnyside School District	3	64

- **Leveraging state family literacy funds with federal Even Start dollars enabled 2 programs to operate 9 Family Literacy sites**
- **215 families (over 430 people) were served throughout Pima County**
- **Parents contributed 16,689 community service hours, which equals \$85,948 of in-kind benefits to the community (based on \$5.15 per hour, minimum wage)**

GED Testing in Pima County

Fiscal Year 2002

What is the GED and why is it important to our community?

The General Educational Development (GED) Test is a five-part, seven-hour exam in reading, writing, science, social studies, and mathematics. Across the nation, one-third of graduating seniors receiving traditional diplomas cannot pass the GED. Research has shown that compared to students with no diploma, students with a GED experience significant improvement in income level and are more likely to become involved in the educational experience of their children.

More than 15,000 students in Arizona take the GED Test annually. There is no Federal or State allocation to fund the processing of GED diplomas or transcripts. The cost of these vital unfunded mandates is taken from the state's adult education allocation.

**1900 High School
Equivalency Diplomas were
issued in Pima County**